

Council of Regions Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

October 16, 2008

Prepared and submitted by COR representative, Steve Martin

COR Priorities and Roles

COR discussed its work plan and concluded that improving funding (amount, diversity, and certainty) and resolving monitoring questions (data management, indicators, funding, etc) are the highest two work plan elements. COR will focus its work on those two elements. In July and September, the COR gave presentations to the Washington Monitoring Forum outlining the role of regional organizations and their monitoring plans and coordination work.

Report to State Legislature: High Priority State and Federal Actions Needed to Implement Salmon Recovery Plans

The GSRO report of high priority state and federal actions, to be submitted to the Legislature this fall, notes that regional salmon recovery organizations have transitioned from planning to coordinating recovery plan implementation and have developed implementation schedules, timelines, sequence for actions, and estimated costs of actions. The report also notes that implementation schedules are also tools for tracking and reporting progress in recovery plan implementation. The report is based on the regional implementation schedules with the intent to highlight the priority actions for state and federal agencies consideration in the 2009-2011 biennium.

SRFB Programmatic Funding Discussion

Megan Duffy presented an overview of the responses regional organizations provided to the core functions questionnaire; she has provided a full report to you. Noteworthy is the statewide consensus that SRFB is the foundation of funding for core regional functions and that other fund sources cannot replace the solid foundation of SRFB funding. All regions have some level of unmet needs that we are asking other sources to fund.

Support for RCO biennial request

Regional organizations agreed to send letters to the Governor in support of the RCO budget request in the amount of \$24 million, noting that the request is not nearly what is needed for salmon recovery but in view of the state budget situation, reflects reality.

COR/NOAA Fisheries Meeting – Recovery Plan Implementation next steps

As follow up to our July meeting with NOAA, Scott Brewer developed a topic paper for COR to consider. Four topics of focus are: report cards, plan updates/revisions, species

status review, and RME. Next steps are being planned to continue these important discussions.

Report to LEAG

COR reported its discussions to LEAG on September 23.